Recruiting:

- Japanese Translators
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これを読めたりなら、ねきょう
のほんやくかになってくれ。

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You might be thinking that it's difficult to manipulate Yamashiro as Soga's puppet.
··· That's not how I'm thinking
Well, just be careful so no one will stab you in the back.
··· Sure, I'll keep it in mind.

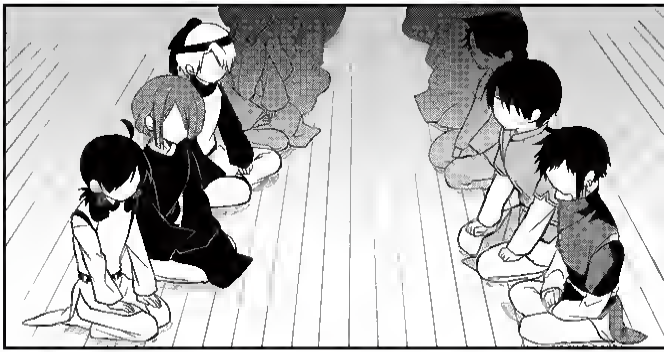
That's because Emishi* put you in charge of national politics.
Yeah
*Soga no Emishi
··· Iruka's father
It can't be helped. Many people harbor ill-will toward Soga.
He's quite strong-willed···
Ha
(Ohhhhhh···)
Even more people will have ill-will toward Soga.
If Soga stays at the center of politics in the future···
Although it's for the family, I am not sure whether it's good for the family···

There will definitely be conflict over imperial succession in the future…
Yama…
You know
I want to be with you forever.
Maybe I should speak to him while he is still young.

I want you to support me when I become the emperor…
Am I dreaming too much?
His eyes were too pure
So I couldn't tell him what I wanted to say.
… No
My place is by your side.

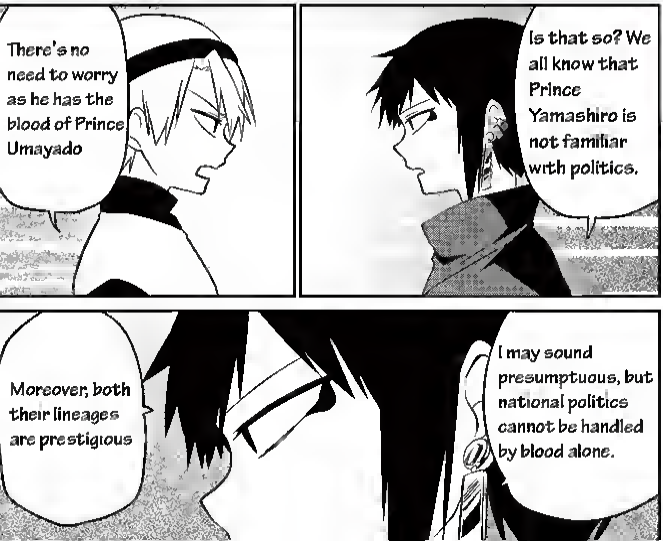
If I had spoken to him then, was the future different?

I recommend Prince Furuhito as he is the eldest son of the late emperor.
I recommend Prince Yamashiro as he is the son of Prince Umayado.
Empress, which would you recommend?
We shall decide at the imperial council tomorrow
As long as one has the ability to be the emperor.
Empress Kogyoku
… Either one is fine with me.
(Stare)

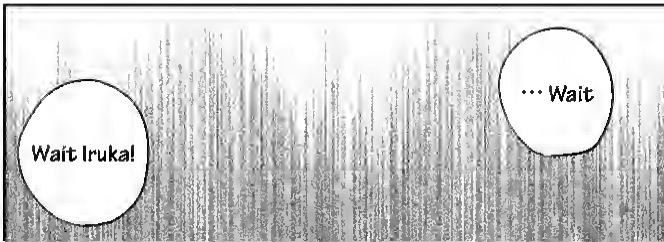


The successor will be either Yamashiro or Furuhito…
We don't even need to discuss it.
Now we shall start the imperial council for imperial succession.

(Buzz)
The imperial successor will be Prince Furuhito.
… That's highhanded of you Soga.


There's no need to worry as he has the blood of Prince Umayado
Is that so? We all know that Prince Yamashiro is not familiar with politics.
Moreover, both their lineages are prestigious
I may sound presumptuous, but national politics cannot be handled by blood alone.

(Silence…)
Are there any objections?
It is decided
(Tak)


… Wait
Wait Iruka!

Do you hate me…?
Do I not have the ability to be the emperor?
Geez.... You don't understand anything.
It's not a matter of like or not when it comes to politics.
That's right, I don't like you.
I don't like your naive and friendly attitude toward me.

Soga no Iruka's date of birth is unknown.
蘇我入鹿
アスヘディア
He was beheaded in a coup d'état…
The position of the scar matches what he said.
Wow, what's this?! A small TV? I want…
Don't get too close cause you'll break it.
That's mean.
(Squeeze)
Did you find anything out?

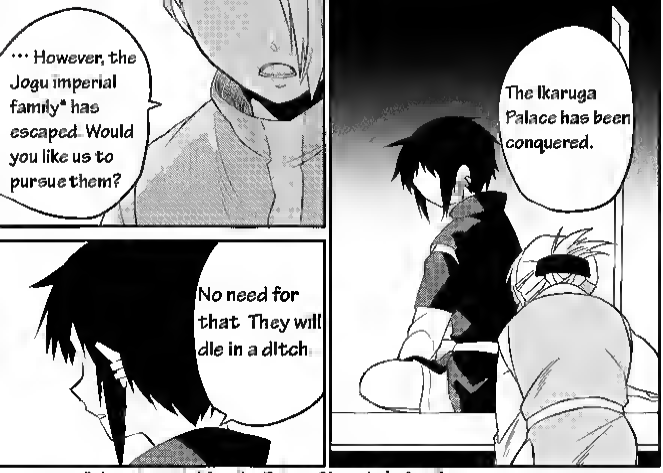
You, who is addicted to peace, become an emperor? Don't make me laugh!
Your existence is inconvenient for me in various ways.
So
I…
Iruka?
Your entire family will be executed tomorrow at the Ikaruga Palace*

* Ikaruga Palace: The palace where the Yamashiro family lives

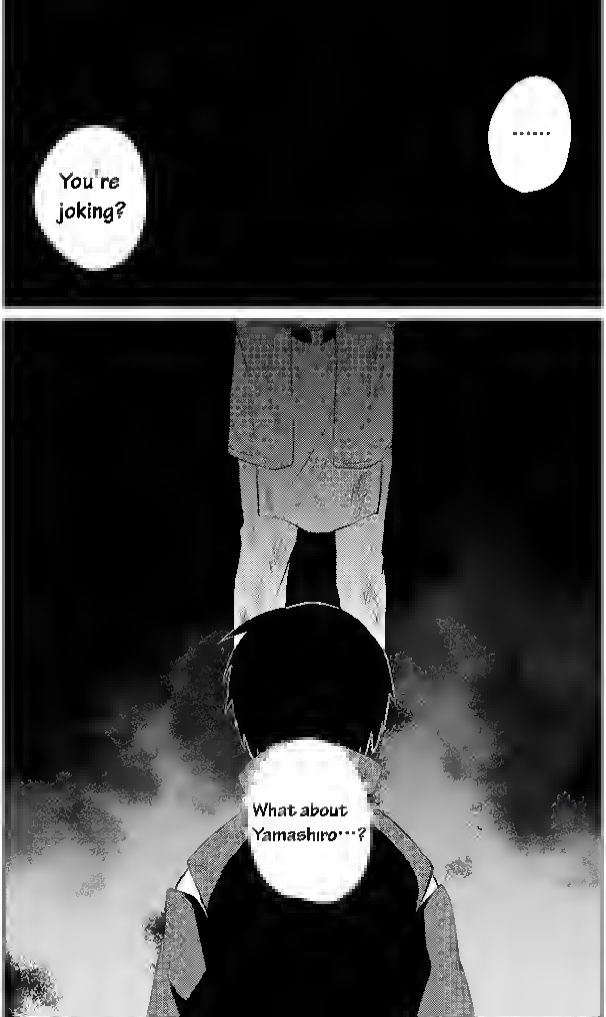
If you don't want to fight, leave now.
I feel much better without you.
(Grab)
(Clang…)
If you hate me, stay alive and come kill me.
Keep the earring and remember me by it.
Your grudge to me as well

… This was the right move.
He can hate me…
Now he does not have to get entangled in disputes.
Yamashiro does not have to die…

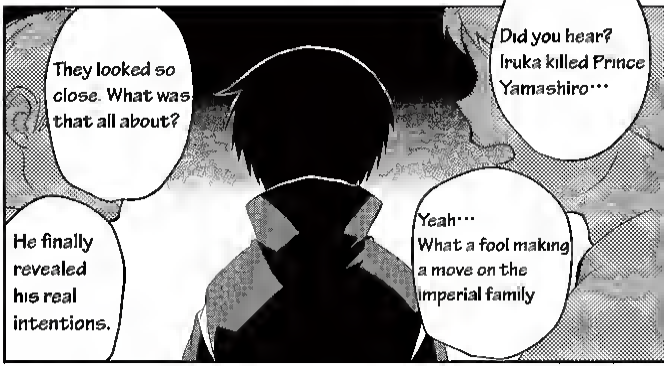
ゴオオオオ
(Whoooooooooosh…)
Ikaruga Palace

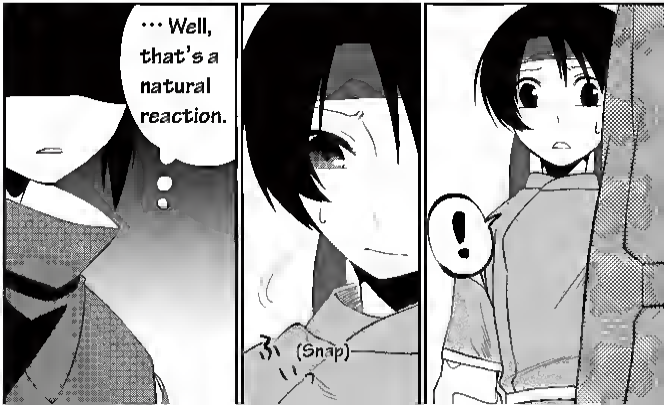

··· However, the Jogu imperial family* has escaped. Would you like us to pursue them?
No need for that. They will die in a ditch.
The Ikaruga Palace has been conquered.

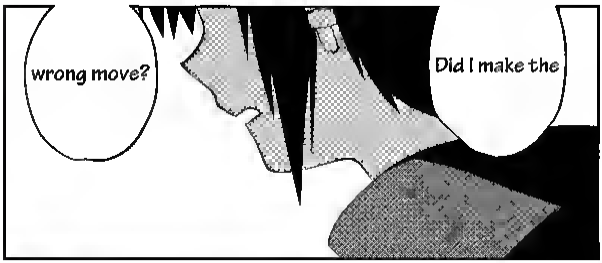
* Jogu imperial family: Prince Shotoku's family


.....
You're joking?
What about Yamashiro…?

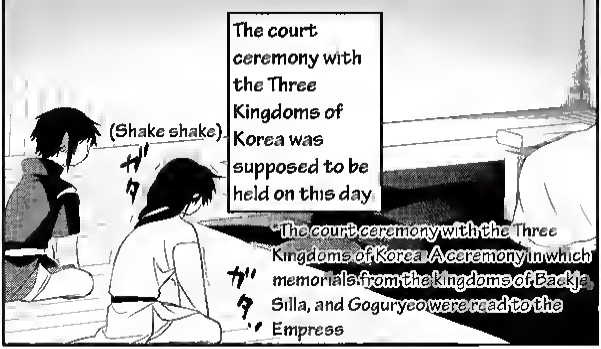
December 30, 643 AD
Prince Yamashiro committed suicide.


Did you hear? Iruka killed Prince Yamashiro…
They looked so close. What was that all about?
Yeah… What a fool making a move on the imperial family
He finally revealed his real intentions.

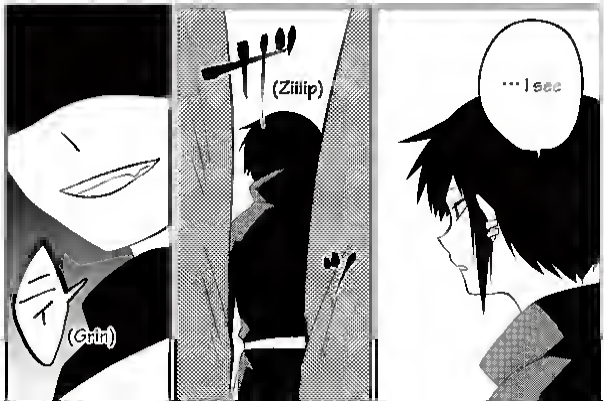

… Well, that's a natural reaction.
(Snap)
!


Did I make the wrong move?

He regretted it for the next two years.
June 12, 645 AD


The court ceremony with the Three Kingdoms of Korea was supposed to be held on this day.
(Shake shake)
"The court ceremony with the Three Kingdoms of Korea: A ceremony in which memorials from the kingdoms of Baekje, Silla, and Goguryeo were read to the Empress

I am nervous at being so close to the empress…
… Why are you shaking so much?
! Because…


(Ziilip)
(Grin)
… I see

What the…
!?
(Whomp)
(Whizz)
(Swoon)
(Grrrrr…)
(Hmmmm…)
What are you doing!?
…What's going on
What am I doing? You just saw it, mother.

青キ縁ノ箱

アオ　エニシ　ハコ

Blue Ark of Destiny

安曇祈

It's a coup d'état.
(Shiling)

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I'm not sure about that
Soga no Iruka was a villain who was assassinated during the Taika Reforms, right?
Why?
History can be modified by the winners as they like.
Losers are described as villains.
Back in those days, it was normal to kill people that got in your way.
Certainly, according to history, Soga no Iruka was a villain…
I'm a great monster!
(Ahem)
… You know a lot.

But was he really?
643 AD

(Thump thump)
たっ
たっ
Hi
Iruka!
Soga no Iruka
(Pass)
Here you go!
What's up Yamashiro?
I found this flower in the yard so I picked it for you.
Hehehe
Prince Yamashiro

We thought that it was natural that we were together.
Yeah
This is beautiful.
Since childhood, Yamashiro and I have always been together.
He obtained power by forming blood relationships with the imperial family.
My grandfather, Soga no Umako, led to the heyday of the Soga clan.
So, the Yamashiro of the imperial family has the same Soga blood as me.

Let's go meet master Nichimon.
(Pops in)
Nakatomi no Kamatari
Iruka!
OK
OK, see you later Yamashiro.
As usual, you're tight with the prince.
Maybe you'll nominate him as the emperor* in the future?
*Emperor: Equivalent to the current day imperial emperor

I also don't want to see him entangled in disputes
… I see

What?
He thinks so, but I don't plan to make him the emperor.

Politics is not for him.

But maybe you just don't want Yamashiro in your way?
!

Shut up
You really like the prince, don't you!
(Hahaha)
あはは。

You've become smart Soga.
You are now influencing politics without us, the Imperial family
(Huh)
… Prince Kazuraki
Prince Kazuraki (Prince Naka no Oe)
What can I do for you today?
I was just taking a walk
Then I heard you guys talking.